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PHONE 654-1822

LIFE EVENTS OF CHIEF TABBY

1798 [

1799

Chief Tabby born at: White Rocks Indian Agency, Utah. He was a full-blooded Ute Indian.

Son of Father=

Mother=

Summer of 1859

Even at the beginning of the settlement of Heber, the Mormon settlers planned and prepared for Ute Indian invasion by building their log homes into the form of a fort to protect themselves.

Ref: "Under Wasatch Skies", p.42

1861

In about 1861 part of Utah was set apart as an Indian reservation. The first Indian agency was built at the head of Daniels Canyon in about 1864. Later that same year the agency was moved to a location at the foot of Tabby Mountain. Pardon Dodds was appointed agent. After a few years the agency burned down. It was then rebuilt at the junction of Rock Creek and Duchesne Rivers. In the fall of 1868 the agency was moved to Whiterocks. The Indians were very self supporting and spent most of their summertime killing and drying meat and berries for their winter food supply. Fort Duchesne, the present agency was established in 1886.

Ref: "Footprints in a Beautiful Valley", p.6

5th May 1864

Ry U.S. Congressional Act of the above date, the Sanpete Indians, led by Black Hawke were displaced into the Uintah Valley in a new Reservation of the former Wasatch County. This area included the lands of the drainage of the Uinta River and its tributaries.

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These Indians were very resentful and would not stay on the Reservation.

Ref: "Wasatch Wave" Dec 21, 1906 p. 6
Report of John A Rawlings in the same issue

Indian raids and killings began in the southern section of the Utah Territory. Now it became imperative that Wasatch County be organized on the eastern borders of the Territory against any possible attack from the Utes on the Ute Reservation.

So, on 26 May 1866 Col. Robert T. Burton and David J. Ross of the Utah Territorian Militia were dispatched by General Daniel H. Wells to organize a local militia with all the available men in Provo River Valley.

10th April 1865

The Sanpete Utes under Chief Black Hawk, became involved in an incident with the white settlers of Manit, Utah. This precipitated the general Black Hawk War throughout nearly all of Utah.

This Ute Indian threat to the Mormon Settlers of Utah was met with two very successful strategies:

- 1. Adequate defences with forts, etc.
- 2. Courageous and repeated peace overtures.

(Note: These hardy pioneers did not plan retaliation.)

Ref: "Under Wasatch Skies". p 42

"In the spring of 1866 the Black Hawk War between the Utah settlers and the Ute Indians engulfed Wasatch County and forced these Mormon people to act out a scene of western frontier development which in similar situations had been bloody and filled with terror.

The San Pete indians led by Black Hawk had been forced from Sevier and San Pete counties and resettled in the Uinta Valley in accordance with the Congressional Act of May 5, 1864. This new Indian reservation included that section of Wasatch County drained by the Uinta River and its tributaries. Bitterly

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resentful. these Indians refused to stay on the reservation, and on the 10th of April, 1865, became involved in an incident with the white settlers near Manti, San Pete County. This precipitated a general Indian war throughout Utah territory.

The Indian threat was singularly well met by the Mormon people, chiefly through the adoption of two very successful policies. The first was an adequate system of defense against the Indian raids and the second was a series of courageous peace overtures designed to change the Indians from enemies to friends. In contrast to other frontiers a general programoof retaliation was not involved, although it must be admitted that a few of the settlers, some fifty years later, entertained their wide-eyed progeny with glowing accounts of single-handed skirmishes with the ferocious, painted savages."

Ref: "Under Wasatch Skies", p 42

10 April 1865

The Indians of the Uinta Reservation would not stay on their reservation and became involved with white settlers near Manti Utah. This errupted into an Indian War between whites and Indians throughout Utah, which became known as the Black Hawk War.

Ref: "Under Wasatch Skies", p 42

June 1865

In June 1865, President Young together with Government Indian Agents, met the chiefs of the Utah Indians to sign a treaty providing that the Indians would move to the Uintah Reservation to make their homes. Among the important chiefs who signed this treaty was Tabby, who afterwards became the leader of the Indians on the reservation.

Tabby was a brother of Walker and Arapene, as well as Sanpitch. He is remembered by many of the settlers of Wasatch County and Duchesne County, and they always speak of him as a chief who desired peace. On several occasions he came to Salt Lake City, declaring that he wanted to live in harmony with the white people.

Ref: "Heart Throbs of the West", ₹01 1: 94-97

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"Daniel W. Jones, one of the many writers who have written about Tabby, gives one of the best sketches in telling of his dealings with this well known chief.

<u>Daniel W. Jones</u> asked permission of some of the authorities to go to the Indians as a friend and talk with them and chose the reservation as his field of labor. Upon his arrival he was notified that if he did not leave in three days he would be killed. Tabby sent word saying:

"You are an old friend, but the Mormons have killed many of my people; you are a Mormon, and if you stay here you will be killed. Some are mad because I do not want you killed at once. Now hurry and get ready for I do not want to see you die."

Jones went on making saddles to sell to the Indians, having the excuse that he needed a few more days to finish his work. One day Tabby and his squaw came to the shop, and without speaking to Jones, gave him a few odd jobs to do.

"Tabby stood straight and silent, hardly moving. He then took from his squaw some buckskin and without a word laid them on my bench. I commenced cleaning up, giving my bench a general straightening. When I came to the buckskins I handled them as though they were trash in my way, and asked the squaw if she would take care of them. At this Tabby laughed, holding out his hand in a friendly way, saying, 'All right, we are friends, and it is foolish for us not to talk and be as we used to be'."

Tabby then told Mr. Jones that it was the desire of the Indians to be friendly with the settlers, but said that he, himself, felt bad about the killing of his half brother as did the rest of the Indians. They held grievances against the agents who had charge of the reservation also. Whether the Indians were justified in their accusations we are not prepared to say, but we want to study their side of the story. On August 21, 1872 we read of Tabby fighting for justice for his people. This is taken from the Salt Lake Herald:

"At 11 am a large number of Indians assembled with their chiefs Tabby, Douglass, To-quoona, Won-da-ro-des, John of Kanosh's Band, Joe, of Payson, and Antero. General Morrow

international de la Companya de la profesional de la companya de la co La companya de la co Superintendent Dodge, and Indian Agent, Critchlow; also Bishops Smoot and Bringhurst, and Generals Thurber and Pace were present. General Morrow said he was glad to meet so many of his Indian friends. The Utes and Whites had been together so long he thought they ought to feel as one family. The 'great father' at Washington had sent him to hold a council and he wished them to tell him all their troubles. Douglass and Tabby said they wanted peace, and agreed to go to the reservation as required. They said that the agents had not furnished them what they promised; and that Colonel Irish had told them a mighty big lie. They wanted the whites to have the privilege of digging the gold, but they wanted the game.

"On the 22nd the 'talk' was continued. The following complaints were made against the agent on the Uintah reservation at Uintah:

- 1st. Failure on the part of the government to fulfill the promises made to the indians.
- 2nd. The title to their country still good, through much of it had been sold by the government.
- 3rd. The supplies furnished by the government in goods and rations insufficient.
- 4th. They have no place, at the agency where they can trade their peltry for necessaries.

"The Indians go to their reservations forthwith, and have agreed not to leave without permission of their agents.

"General Morrow goes further south, to bring into subjection the hostile Indians."

The following story of Tabby is copied from the History of Wasatch County, on file in the office of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers:

"The Center and Wallsburg people were ordered to move to Heber and the Charleston people to move to Midway, the new locations of the two Snake Creek settlements, which were kept up for two years until the war with the Indians was over. On the 27th of May, 1866 a company of twenty-four men under Captain William M. Wall, with three wagons loaded with supplies, started for the reservation. This company took about a hundred head of beef cattle as a present from President Young to be given to the Indians as a peace offering if they would accept them and stop the war. If they would not, the cattle were to be given to them anyway, and the Indians were to be told that the Mormons wanted peace and did not want to kill any of the Indians, but wanted to be good friends.

"One morning we saw the Indians moving in among the cedars

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and finally came to a standstill. Chief Tabby then sent an Indian to tell us he was coming quickly with ten or twelve Indians, and that he could not stop them from shooting until we were all killed. We told him to tell Tabby that we were ready and if they came to fight we would shoot them. There were two hundred and seventy-five Indians close by who circled around the agent's cabin a few feet away. Tabby got off his horse and went into the cabin. While he was in there an Indian shouted and all the other Indians ran into the cedars again. Captain Wall then said:

'I'll go to the other cabin and talk to Tabby and don't any of you go out while I am gone, and do not let any Indians come in here.'

"He talked for three hours with the Indian Chief and agreed to meet him again the next morning to decide whether they were to have peace or war. The next morning Tabby brought some Indians with him and Captain Wall talked with them nearly all day. Finally Tabby said he would make peace if we would kill a man in Sanpete named Sloan. Wall would not agree to this and after some more talk he agreed to take the cattle and make peace as far as he was concerned.

"That evening it was my turn to stand quard and the Indians began to shout and yell as they stood around their camp fire and they all seemed to be very much excited. I reported to Captain Wall that the Indians surely intended to kill us. When Tabby heard this he went to their camp fire and said:

'What's the matter with you Indians--you know I have made peace with the Mormons--stop your shouting.'

"He told us when we started home to keep right in the wagon road and go as quickly as possible as he was afraid his Indians might shoot us as he could hardly restrain them right there.

"When we got home we learned that the people had become alarmed on account of our long abscence. A company had been formed and was ready to start out to find us as agreed upon before we left Heber, should we not return in a reasonable time. We had been gone twelve days. Our men at that time risked their lives, but all proved brave and true. Colonel Head, Indian Agent, went out with us and he rather encouraged the Indians in not taking the cattle, as a present from Brigham Young and even tried to buy the cattle for the government."

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Another thing that caused anxiety in the minds of the people in Heber while these men were gone was this: On their way out they had stopped to eat in Strawberry Valley and had tied their horses with the saddles on them to trees with their guns fastened to the saddles. One horse tried to roll over and the gun was discharged, the bullet killing one horse and wounding another in the shoulder so it could not be used. The horse was turned loose and in a day or two returned to Heber in that condition. Not knowing how it happened some naturally thought we had been killed. The horse went home alone and was known to belong to John Acomb.

Chief Tabby probably did what he could to restrain the Indians but the young Indian warriors preferred to follow Black Hawk and kept on with the stealing and killing for two more years.

Indian difficulties continued. In 1867 Bishop Joseph S. Murdock managed in some way to get in touch with Tabby and a few of the minor chiefs; and invited them to come to Heber to sign a peace treaty. Tabby, Douglass, Tokowaner, and some of the other Indians came bringing with them their squaws and papooses. An ox was killed and divided among them and a big feast was prepared in a bowery built on the lot owned later by Elizabeth Carroll. They all seemed to enjoy the feast and went back to the reservation with good feeling, carrying with them part of the beef, flour, bacon, and other good things. It is belived that this gathering had a good influence in helping the Indians to be more friendly with the white people in this valley, as few, if any raids were made after that.

It had always been the policy of President Brigham Young to "Better feed the Indians than fight them." However, there were seventy white persons killed during the war with the Indians, and there was probably more than that number of Indians.

Tabby died a very old man on November 22, 1903 at White Rocks Agency. (Daughters of Utah Pioneer Files)

Spring 1866

The Black Hawk War between the White people and the Ute Indians engulfed the people of the Wasatch County into the threat of Indian Depredations.

Ref: "Under Wasatch Skies", pp 42-43 "HBUM", pp.108

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Spring 1866

The Black Hawk war between the Utah settlers and Ute Indian started with Uinta Indians involved with white settlers at Manti.

Wasatch County Settlers went into a "protection mode" and stayed in three Forts in Wallsburg, Midway, and Heber.

Ref: "Under Wasatch Skies", p42

15 May 1866

Even with these precautions the Indians made several raids on the valley. On the night of May 15 1866, before the precautions discussed had been made, they came over the mountains on the snowcrust and ran off fifteen cows from Center Creek. The people had all moved to the fort in Heber. Other raids on the cattle and horses followed.

Ref: Joseph S. McDonald, "The Journal of Joseph S. McDonald," (Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Heber, Utah 1920) p2

Early Spring 1866

While part of the militia stood guard in the valley others were engaged in trying to make peace with the Indians. Early in the spring of 1866 Church President Brigham Young asked Al Huntington, of Heber, to ride out to the reservation on a peace mission. Huntington, an interpreter, was to go alone, contact Black Hawk, prevail upon him to cease stealing and killing and tell him that Brigham Young wanted to prevent blood from being shed. Although it appeared to be a dangerous mission, President Young promised him that he would not be harmed.

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At this Sowiette, an old blind chief, stepped into the circle and said, "You Indians ought to be ashamed. You are like coyotes gathered around a sheep, ready to eat it up. This is a brave man who has come here all alone to tell us Brigham doesn't want to kill Indians. He wants peace, and you all know he is our friend." The angry circle then broke up, and one by one the Indians slipped furtively away leaving Huntington to return as he had come alone.

Ref: "Under Wasatch Skies", p44

26 May 1866

Col Robert T Burton and David J Ross came to Heber, Utah and organized a Militia Battalion with four companies. John Wesley Witt, was appointed Major of the County Militia, with Charles H Wilcken as Adjutant. William M Wall was appointed Captain of a calvary company, and John Hamilton and Thomas Todd were captains of two Infantry companies. John Gallagher was Captain of a Silver Grey Company. The Midway Cavlary Company was Headed by Sidney Hyrum Epperson and Ira Jacob was Captain

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of the infantry in Midway.

Other officers of the Militia were John Crook, David Van Wagoner, Joseph McCarrell and John Murray Murdock.

Second Peace Ovation: One of the first acts of this Militia was to try to make peace with the Ute Indians. A company of 24 men and three wagon loads of supplies started for the Ute Indian Reservation under Captain William Madison Wall. These men also drove one hundred head of cattle as a peace offering from President Brigham Young.

Ref: "Under Wasatch Skies", p43 "HBUM", pp110 - 113

27 May 1866

Second Mormon Peace Overture: "The Mormon's second peace overture took the form of a gift. Brigham Young ordered William Wall to organize an expedition to take one hundred head of cattle to the Utes on the reservation. chose ten members of his cavalry company together with fourteen others and started out on May 27, 1866. Upon arrival at Indian Agency Headquarters on the Duchesne River it was discovered that the Indians had gone east to hide their families in preparation for an extended war against the whites. An Indian runner was sent out to call them back and to tell them of the cattle the Mormons had Before the main group of Indians returned a brought. runner came back from Chief Tabby and was immediately taken into the Indian agent's house without seeing the Mormons. Colonel Head, the Indian agent, had come out with the expedition and admonished the Indians not to take the cattle as a present from Brigham Young. He even tried to buy them for the Government to present to the Indians, but Wall flatly rejected the offer, saying, 'No, sir, you can't buy them for they are Mormon cattle, and if the Indians eat them they will eat Mormon beef.'

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"The day defore the Indians arrived the owner of the agency store came to the blockhouse where the Mormons were staying to tell them that the Indians were planning to kill them. Joseph S. MacDonald, a lieutenant in the cavalry troop, describes the Mormon's hurried preparations:

'The man who kept the store came over and said, "They intend killing everyone of you. I cannot see you killed for nothing. I think they will attack tomorrow night. Now, I have ammunition of all kinds, and as soon as it gets dark so the agent can't see you, send your men over and pack it into this house. All I ask is that you return that which you don't shoot. I have a two inch auger. Set your men to making port holes for yourselves. I have a forty gallon barrel. Fill it full of water for yourselves and pack in wood for use. I have a big rope. Sink some posts in front of the house, bore holes and tie your horses to it so they (the indians) can't run them off." We worked all night. Next morning, after break-Mast, we felt pretty good. The old agent came over and looked around and finally said, "Gentlemen, do you know whose house this is?" I said, "Uncle's, I quess." He never answered and walked on looking at the port holes we had made until he came to one. When he looked through it he swore and said, "That is straight for my door!" The man that owned the port hole tapped him on the shoulder and said, "Yes, and you are the first Indian we intend to kill." I never saw a man get out of a house as quick and he didn't bother us any more.'

Indians came into the cedars the next night and camped. When morning came they began to form a line for attack.

'Then a messenger from Tabby came in as fast as his horse could run and to our interpreter said, "Tabby is coming in on the charge and says that there are ten or fifteen unruly Indians painted black who intend to start shooting when they get close enough." Al Huntington, our interpreter, slapped him on the leg and told him to go back and tell Tabby that if they come in on the run we would commence shooting. The Indian left. Captain Wall said, 'What did you send that word for?' Huntington replied, 'I knew if they came in on the run some of them would shoot.'

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 "In about fifteen or twenty minutes they formed a line with Tabby on the left and came in on the walk. They surrounded the agen't house and Tabby got off his horse and went in. Captain Wall said,"I must know what is going on in that house." Lt. McDonald, you pick a man and stand in this door and don't let a red man in nor a white man out."

"Wall held a brief conference with Tabby in the agent's house while the expedition members stood at the gun ports awaiting the impending attack. He told of the gift of cattle and food and also of the Mormon's desire to talk of peace. Tabby said, 'Tomorrow at sunup I will fetch ten warriors with me." The Captain accepted but warned Tabby not to come armed."

"Attrium the Indians came. Every one of them was painted black with war clubs slung on their wrists and pistols hidden under their blankets. The block house was divided into two rooms with a door between. Wall's twenty-four men stood in the east room and the Indians in the west. Lt. MacDonald stood in the door between the two parties. Wall and Tabby sat down together. Tabby spoke telling the Indian grievances and how they had been created. The Captain interrupted, saying, "We have been at war; now we want peace. We are here to make peace. We must stop killing each other." The blackened Indians were displeased with Wall's proposal, but when they protested Tabby ordered them to be quiet."

"The conference lasted all day. First Tabby spoke and then Wall. At times they both became angry. Tabby demanded that the Mormons kill a man in San Pete County. Wall refused, saying that the laws would not allow it. As evening approached Tabby agreed, in general, to the proposed peace settlement. His agreement was not binding on Black Hawk

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and the renegade Indians following him, but the peace settlement did adjust the very real differences between this chief and the Mormons. Twelve days after starting out the expedition returned home to anxious families and friends. They found a militia company prepared to go in search for the peace makers since many feared that they had been massacred by the Indians. Instead, the releived people honored them with a party the night after their arrival."

"Renegade Indians, however, continued to make raids on the valley stealing a few horses and cattle whenever they could. Another expedition with food for the Indians was sent out on 8th of July but met with little success."

Ref: "Under Wasatch Skies", p45

July 1866

Indian Raiders came and took Thomas Hundley's oxen and cow from his corral in Heber Utah.

"In July, 1866 Indians took Thomas Hundley's oxen and a cow from his corral in Heber. The scouts in the mountains saw the tracks of their horses the day before the raid and warned the militia. Parties of four, on horseback, were ordered out to track the Indians down. Hundley's cattle were stolen while the militia parties were preparing to leave. One of the parties, composed of Andrew Ross, Joseph Parker, Isaac Cummings, and Sidney Carter later found their trail and followed them over the eastern ridge to their camp on the Duchesne River. The scouts made their first contact with the Indians when they noticed a thin wisp of smoke curling skyward from within a thick stand of timber. At the sight of this they stopped, dismounted, and after tethering their horses crept as quickly as possible down the hill towards

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the thicket. These were three Indians. Two slept while the third, who was standing guard was busy cutting up one of the two cattle which had been butchered. The scouts each picked a man, and at the count of three all fired. Two of the Indians were killed, while the third got away in the timber."

Ref: "Under Wasatch Skies", from James Lindsay, pp 43-44

Winter: 1866-67 March 1867 "The winter of 1866-67 severely taxed the Ute's food supply, and in March a hungry Tabby with his braves came to Heber to smoke the peace pipes with his white friends and eat some of their beef. A feast was held in the bowery at Heber; and the Indians were given blankets, flour, and eighty head of cattle to alleviate their suffering."

Ref: "Under Wasatch Skies", p 49-51

One day after Aug 1867

Chief Tabby brought his son to Joseph Stacy Murdock to be burried in the Heber City Cemetary.

Ref: "Advancing the Mormon Fnontier", or "The Life and Times of Joseph Stacy Murdock", by George A Thompson, p184

20 Aug 1867

Ute Indian Peace Treaty at the home of Joseph Stacy Murdock in Heber City Utah - at 115 East 300 North.

The Indian Peacy Treaty Mounment. Heber - The inscription reads: "Daughters of Utah Pioneers No. 50. Erected September 1939. Indiana Peace Treaty. Beautiful Provo Valley named from the river and once Chief Walker's hunting ground. Was colonized 1850-60 by 18 families called by President Brigham Young. In 1864 Indian troubles forced the pioneers to build a fortiat Heber. Bishop Joseph S. Murdock who was friendly with the Indians invited Chief Tabby and bribe to his home (three blocks north and one east) August 20, 1867 where a peace treaty was signed and a barbecue held on John Carroll's lot. This ended Indian depredations in the valley proving Brigham Young's statement "It is better to fed

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the Indians than to fight them."

Ref: "HBUM", p1136

22 Nov 1903 Chief Tabby died at the white Rocks Indian Agency.

Tabiona town is named for him.

He was buried in White Rocks Area. Some Say on Tabby Mt.

He was blind for a number of years prior to his death.

Ref: "Footprints in a Beautiful Valley", p 3,1,

"Old Tabby, chief of the Uintah Utes as far back as the mind of the oldest inhabitant runs, died out near White Rocks agency one day last week, aged 104 years. He was in early days the special friend of Prophet Brigham Young and did much in his time to preserve peace between his people and the whites. He had been blind for a number of years. His personal effects were buried with him in his grave, and after the body had been put beneath the ground forty horses belonging to the old fellow were led and driven to the scene and shot over the grave."

Ref: "footprints in a Beautiful Valley", p3

1905 The Ute Indian Reservation was established.

Ref: "Footprints in a Beautiful Valley", p 405 in Chancy Charles Lee's Biography

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